



State of Utah

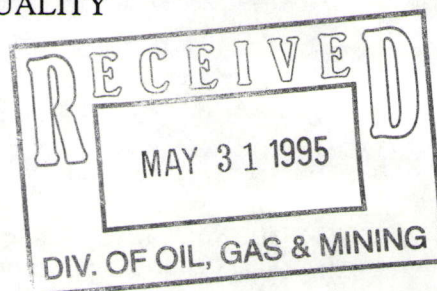
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director

288 North 1460 West
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870
(801) 538-6146 Voice
(801) 538-6016 Fax
(801) 536-4414 T.D.D.



May 30, 1995

Glen M. Eurick
Environmental Affairs Coordinator
Barrick Mercur Mine
P.O. Box 838
Tooele, Utah 84074

RE: Stipulation and Consent Order, Docket No.
GW-90-03-A, Valley Fill Leach Area #2,
Conditional Approval of Closure Plan

Dear Mr. Eurick:

We have completed our review of the plans and specifications for the recontouring and covering of Valley Fill Leach Area #2 at the Barrick Mercur Gold Mine in Tooele County, prepared by your engineering department, and submitted to us on April 19, 1995. These plans are approved in terms of satisfying Section 4 of the March 12, 1992 Stipulation and Consent Order. Construction under these plans is hereby authorized, subject to the following conditions:

1. Any revisions or modifications to the approved plans and specifications must be submitted to the Division of Water Quality (the Division) for review and approval, before construction or implementation thereof.
2. After completion, the approved facilities must be inspected by a representative from this Division.
3. Barrick will obtain approval for the proposed seed mix from the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM).
4. Barrick will place and maintain the vegetated cover in accordance with methods and standards approved by the DOGM.
5. Following placement of the final cover, Barrick will submit an As-Built report to document the closure as per the approved plan and design.
6. The leakage collection cistern shall not be disturbed by the construction activity and shall remain in operation to intercept leachate for a minimum of five years following the placement of the final cover.
7. At the end of five years the flow and quality data from the leakage collection cistern will be evaluated to determine if the quality and flow are within the range predicted by the modeling conducted by Dames and Moore. This modeling constitutes the basis for the closure design. If actual leakage collection fluid



quantity is significantly greater than predicted by the modeling, or if the concentrations of contaminants increase substantially, then the suitability of the topsoil/vegetated cover will be reevaluated. Therefore, the leakage collection cistern shall not be removed without the written consent of the Executive Secretary. During the five year period, Barrick will manage leakage collection system fluids in accordance with the closure plan provisions. The plan requires that all leakage collection flows during this period shall be either pumped to the mill process circuit or to the tailings impoundment.

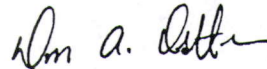
8. Within 60 days of the date of this letter, Barrick shall submit a revised post closure monitoring plan to satisfy the requirements of Section 5 of the March 12, 1992 Stipulation and Consent Order. This monitoring plan will also outline and formalize the ongoing monitoring Barrick has been conducting and shall be the instrument by which data can be collected to make the determination discussed in item 7, above.

The submitted closure plan does not meet the requirements for a clean closure and thus Area #2 will continue to be considered an existing facility under the ground water regulations. Under these regulations an existing facility is subject to the requirement to apply for a permit if directed to do so by the Executive Secretary. Under current and foreseeable circumstances we would not expect to require a permit specifically for Area #2. However, as a matter of practicality and efficiency we may propose that Area #2 and Area #3 could be jointly permitted during the post closure monitoring period.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Dennis Frederick at 538-6146.

Sincerely,

Utah Water Quality Board



Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Executive Secretary

· DAO:DAF:wfm

cc: Brian Slade, Tooele County Health Department
Tom Munson, DOGM
Lori Robison, Dames & Moore

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